

(b) to (d) A proposal for enhancement of the existing rate of royalty on lignite has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu and is under consideration of the Government.

News-item "Letter bomb blows up on mines bosses"

1162. DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Letter bomb blows up on mine bosses" in the Telegraph, dated 8th February, 2001 regarding Bagdigi mine disaster; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on the content of the reported letter by the Assistant Manager of Bagdigi Colliery and six other forewarning about the disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the letter mentioned above was received in the Ministry of Coal on 13-2-2001. The Coal India Ltd., was requested to establish the authenticity of the letter. It has been reported that the said letter has not been received so far by Chairman, Coal India Limited.

Failure of rescue measures

1163. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rescue measures at Bagdigi coal mines could not succeed;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of rescue measures; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officers involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Rescue measures were initiated immediately after the accident and a multipronged strategy under the technical guidance of the DGMS officials was undertaken such as:—